

David Mead - Bill HB 4684

From: Summer Olmstead <summerolmstead@ymail.com>
To: "FrankFoster@house.mi.gov" <FrankFoster@house.mi.gov>, "MattHuuki@house...."
Date: 11/9/2011 11:15 PM
Subject: Bill HB 4684

November 9th 2011

Attention State Representative,

I am writing this letter in response to the proposal HB-4684 set for a hearing on 11/10/2011. I am unable to attend this meeting but I am requesting that this email be read aloud in my absence and entered into record.

I am an avid mountain biker and have come to appreciate the hard work and dedication that it takes to maintain and build trail systems. Mountain biking has become a passion and hobby that I enjoy and share with my children. We as a family have volunteered our time and resources to maintain and build trail systems. It has provided immeasurable teaching opportunity as a parent to show my child the pride of using your hands, time, and effort to create something, to care for something. They are proud of what they have contributed to this system. It is difficult to watch the destruction of these trails by equestrian use. In addition I have felt that my children are not safe to ride the narrow single track areas along side equestrians. I absolutely believe that both groups should have access to trails. However, a division of trail use is essential to mountain biking safety, quality of experience, and prevents destruction of the single track trails.

The Southwest Michigan Mountain Bike Association has dedicated over 1,000 man hours and invested over 50,000 dollars per year into the trail system at Fort Custer. Funding is raised by our non-profit organization. Fort Custer is a popular destination for mountain bikers from our tri-state area. It brings support and financial resources to the local business in the area. Fort Custer has been known for its well maintained trail system, I fear that if the chapter is unable to maintain this standard we will lose the attraction that brings mountain bikers to the southwest area.

Equestrian specific trails have cost the tax payers tens of thousands of dollars, yet they continue to be the minority of users. Their use makes up less than 1 percent. Passing this bill is unjust and would be a misuse of public resources.

Thank you for your time and resources,

Summer Olmstead
6362 Independence Dr
Portage Mi, 49024

Summer Olmstead, OTR/L

Center Director
Brain Balance Achievement Center of Kalamazoo

6778 S Westnedge Ave
Portage, MI 49002